

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BUDAPEST 3999 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
LISBON RABAT ANKARA DTD 29 NOV

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 3999

DEPT PLEASE PASS COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (RICHARDSON, ELLIOTT), HU
SUBJ: VISIT OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ELLIOTT RICHARDSON TO HUNGARY

1. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ELLIOTT RICHARDSON WAS EXCEPTIONALLY
WARMLY RECEIVED BY HUNGARIANS DURING HIS VISIT TO BUDAPEST
NOVEMBER 24-25. HE WAS GREETED AT AIRPORT BY MINISTER OF
FOREIGN TRADE AND MRS. BIRO AND A SMALL COTERIE OF FOREIGN
OFFICE AND FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY OFFICIALS. TELEVISION
COVERAGE WAS LAVISH.

2. SECRETARY RICHARDSON PAID COURTESY CALL ON MORNING OF
NOVEMBER 24 ON PRIME MINISTER LAZAR AND FOLLOWED UP WITH
SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA AND
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MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE BIRO. THESE THREE APPOINTMENTS

WERE NECESSARILY JAMMED TOGETHER BECAUSE OF FACT THAT BOTH LAZAR AND PUJA DEPARTED IN EARLY AFTERNOON WITH HSWP FIRST SECRETARY KADAR ENROUTE TO BUCHAREST TO ATTEND POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN THAT CITY NEXT TWO DAYS. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SZEKER HOSTED GALA DINNER AT GELLERT HOTEL EVENING OF NOVEMBER 24, DURING COURSE OF WHICH WARM TOASTS EXCHANGED BY SECREATRY AND SZEKER.

3. AFTER TOUR OF RADELKIS FACTORY EARLY ON MORNING OF NOVEMBER 25, SECRETARY MET WITH HUNGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH HUNGARY'S LEADING ENTERPRISE MANAGERS, MAIN SUBJECT BEING DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN HUNGARY. PROMINENT AMONG ENTERPRISE MANAGERS PRESENT WERE DIRECTORS OF RABA, BABOLNA, AND CSEPEL, AND MANAGERS OF HUNGARY'S LEADING PHARMACEUTICAL, TEXTILE, AND SHIP-BUILDING ENTERPRISES. IN ABSENCE OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT ODON KALLOS, DISCUSSION WAS CHAIRED BY GYORGY DOZSA, PRESIDENT OF HUNGARY'S ALUMINUM TRUST. HE TOOK OVER LIVELY AND SPIRITED DISCUSSION AFTER SHORT INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY KALLOS' DEPUTY UJHAZI.

4. AFTER THANKSGIVING DAY LUNCHEON ATTENDED BY 36 GUESTS, INCLUDING SZEKER, BIRO, TOROK, AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SZARKA WITH WIVES, PLUS DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HAMMER AND DIRECTOR OF SECRETARIAT FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SZITA, HIGHLIGHT OF TWO-DAY SCHEDULE WAS CALL BY SECRETARY RICHARDSON ON SZEKER IN HIS OFFICES IN PARLIAMENT, DURING WHICH CONVERSATION CENTERED ON TWO MAIN OBSTACLES TO FULL NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND HUNGARY. (CONVERSATIONS WITH FOEIGN MINISTER PUJA AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SZEKER BEING DISPATCHED SEPTELS.)

5. SECRETARY RICHARDSON WAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE PRESS AND TELEVISION COVERAGE DURING TWO DAYS OF HIS VISIT, INCLUDING LONG INTERVIEW WITH VILAGGAZDASAG CORRESPONDENT HIRSCHLER. SECRETARY WAS ALSO INTERVIEWED BY EDITOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY NEWS WHICH HIGHLIGHTED STORY ON FRONT PAGE (COPIES BEING POUCHED). SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL AT FERIHEGY AIRPORT WAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE AND WAS FIRST ITEM ON 7:30 NEWSCAST. GREEK AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS IN BRATISLAVA, SAID COVERAGE OF SECREATRY RICHARDSON'S VISIT TO BUDAPEST ALSO APPEARED ON SLOVAK TELEVISION IN THAT CITY. HUNGARIANS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY RICHARDSON VISIT. WE JUDGE THIS TO BE SO BY REPEATED,

STRONG EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF U.S.-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS BY SZEKER IN PARTICULAR BUT ALSO BY BIRO AND PUJA. ITALIAN COUNSELOR, PAYING HIS FAREWELL CALL ON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NAGY, SAID THAT LETTER SPENT OVER HALF OF 30-MINUTE CALL EXPRESSING HIS PLEASURE AT RICHARDSON VISIT AND IMPROVED STATE OF AMERICAN-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD SIMILAR COMMENTS MADE TO US BY BOTH BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND DANISH CHARGE.

6. HUNGARIANS CLEARLY IMPRESSED WITH SECRETARY'S KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF HUNGARIAN AFFAIRS AND HIS ADROIT HANDLING OF COMPLEX ISSUES. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS REPORT THAT HUNGARIAN ENTERPRISE MANAGERS PARTICULARLY COMPLIMENTARY RE SECRETARY'S GRASP OF DIFFICULTIES ON HUNGARIAN BUSINESS SCENE.

7. FULL DETAILS AND ANALYSIS FOLLOW SEPTELS. MUDD UNQTE KISSINGER

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